

Guided Discovery

Guided discovery is based on the principle that if you can get students to discover something on their own, it will be easier for them to understand and remember whatever it is they have discovered.

Guided discovery uses leading questions to achieve this purpose. Initially, using this technique may take a bit more time in the classroom, but it is an effective use of time because it facilitates comprehension of the rules, making it easier for students to remember.

Using Guided Discovery With Syllable Types

Since new material is normally based on the foundation you have already provided for your students, if you want to introduce the first syllable type---closed syllables---start by reviewing the principle of syllables and long and short vowels.

After a short review, ask the students to tell you how they would know whether a vowel is long or short. At this point, students will probably not be able to give you an answer. Therefore, tell them that you are going to teach them about different syllable types, which will give them important information on how to pronounce the vowel sound within words.

NOTE: When teaching these principles, remember to make good use of the word “normally.” This is important because there will always be exceptions to the rules and generalizations that you discuss. These exceptions do not detract from the value of the information you are giving your students, but students have to be aware of them. If you mention this before you start, it will make things easier.